Preserving the Hellenistic cultural heritage of Syria
In 2007 the Technological Educational Institute of Athens (TEI of Athens) carried out a Hellenic Aid Programme in Syria, entitled «Documentation, Conservation and Presentation of the Hellenistic Collection of the Archaeological Museum of Hama in Syria: Establishment of Facility and Training of Local Personnel». The programme was financed by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the TEI of Athens in collaboration with the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) - Ministry of Culture of Syria and the Centre for Museum Studies of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Establishment of Facilities and Training of Local Personnel

The programme aimed at developing the operational capabilities of DGAM to preserve and manage the Hellenistic material by establishing an Object Conservation laboratory and a Hellenistic Exhibition Hall at the Archaeological Museum of Hama. The **Object Conservation Laboratory** of Hama has been refurbished and equipped with all the fundamental instrumentation as well as specialised tools and materials for the conservation of archaeological finds. It has been organised in work units that facilitate the observation, documentation, diagnosis and treatment of the objects. Examination, evaluation and documentation before treatment, under the supervision of the TEI professors, led to the successful completion of the conservation of 235 objects including ceramics, metals, ivories, a statue, a funerary stele and four column capitals which are today displayed in the Hellenistic Exhibition Hall of the Museum. The Syrian trainees had the opportunity to work on a wide range of archaeological materials using state of the art equipment and methodology.
Life in Hellenistic Syria

The aim of this exhibition is to present life in Hellenistic Syria and underpin the role that Hellenism played in Syria for the period between Alexander’s death and the fall of Egypt (333-64 B.C.). The story line describes the narrative of this concept after assessing the ideas within the framework of the museum’s mission, its policies and community needs.

The interpretation and presentation plan was formed after research and scholarly information that was provided for every object and every panel of the exhibition’s thematic units.

The objects that were chosen for the exhibition were collected from the storerooms of the museums of Hama, Apamea, Aleppo, Damascus, Palmyra and the excavations of Amrit and Jebel Khalid.
 Tasks accomplished

✓ Setting up object conservation laboratory
✓ Conservation of 235 objects
✓ Training of local personnel on the documentation and conservation of archaeological objects
✓ Setting up the Hellenistic Exhibition Hall
✓ Undergraduate and Post-Graduate dissertations on conservation and museology
✓ Good practice guide for the handling and preservation of paper and archives
✓ Dissemination of information, presentations and publications at international conferences

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